



This is the final installment of *Managing Your Graduation Rate*, a 10-part series aimed at increasing awareness about the details and nuances of Indiana's high school graduation rate. Prior issues can be found on the [IDOE web site](#). This multi-part series has been published over the past weeks in Dr. McCormick's Weekly Update, and in the Accountability Moodle Community. Please forward any questions to schoolaccountability@doe.in.gov.

Installment #10: Five-Year Graduation Rate

To encourage schools and students to continue to strive toward high school graduation after the September 30 deadline for on-time (four-year) graduation has passed, the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) calculates the Five-Year Graduation Rate. Typically, the cohort size does not change between the four-year graduation rate and the five-year graduation rate, but the number of graduates can increase, thus the five-year graduation rate is higher than the four-year graduation rate. The five-year graduation rate is used to create a bonus opportunity in the State's accountability system. The bonus is equal to the difference in the five-year graduation rate and the four-year graduation rate.

The most misunderstood nuance of the five-year graduation rate is that the student does not switch cohorts when they switch schools after the expected graduation year. For example, Charlie did not meet graduation requirements by September 30, 2018 at School A. (Charlie is on School A's 2018 cohort.) Charlie decides that School B would be a better fit to get the last few credits necessary to meet graduation requirements and enrolls at School B for the 2018-2019 school year. Charlie will remain on School A's 2018 cohort. Charlie completes graduation requirements and graduates from School B during the 2018-2019 school year. School B submits the Graduation Report (GR record) for Charlie. Charlie shows as a graduate on School A's 2018 five-year cohort report, counting toward School A's five-year graduation rate.

IDOE will again be offering a voluntary audit of the five-year graduation rate for the 2018 cohort. The audit window will be announced at a later date.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about cohort and graduation rates. Be sure to check the [School Accountability & Accreditation Community](#) (enrollment key: AccountabilityCommunity) in Moodle for resources around cohort and graduation rate.